



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Masaki Sushi's Yoshi Takaoka Earns Prestigious Master Sake Sommelier Certification

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE ON, February 5, 2026** — Lais Hotel Properties Limited (LHPL), in partnership with Masaki Sushi, is proud to announce that Yoshi Takaoka, Restaurant Manager and Head Sake Sommelier at Masaki Sushi, has earned the Master Sake Sommelier Certification.

The Master Sake Sommelier designation is the world's highest sake sommelier qualification, representing the pinnacle of sake service, blind tasting expertise, and in-depth knowledge of sake production, styles, and pairing. With only 46 qualified Master Sake Sommeliers worldwide, this title is exceptionally rare, placing Takaoka among the most accomplished sake professionals in the world.

In addition to this achievement, Takaoka holds multiple advanced credentials, including Certified Sake Sommelier, Certified Sake Professional, International Kikisake-shi, and WSET Level 3 Award in Sake. Under his leadership, Masaki Sushi has developed an extensive and expertly curated sake program, earning recognition from guests and industry professionals alike.

This milestone further reinforces Masaki Sushi's position as a leading destination for elevated Japanese dining in Niagara-on-the-Lake, while reflecting LHPL's continued commitment to excellence, education, and world-class hospitality experiences.

"This certification is not just a personal milestone for Yoshi, it elevates the entire guest experience at Masaki Sushi," said Bob Jackson, Chief Executive Officer of Lais Hotel Properties Limited, which owns Masaki Sushi. "His leadership and knowledge have shaped a sake program that rivals the Canada's finest."

### **MASAKI SUSHI**

Masaki Sushi is an innovative dining destination in Niagara-on-the-Lake, offering an authentic yet modern Japanese culinary experience. Led by Executive Chef Seong I L Lee, the restaurant features the finest seafood flown in from Japan and one of Canada's most extensive, expertly curated sake collections.

More information is available at [masakisushi.ca](http://masakisushi.ca).

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